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# CONFERENCE *connection*

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**SOUTHEAST UCC Conference**



May 15, 2018

## Annual Meeting Registration Deadline is Thursday

The 52nd Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference is rapidly approaching! Please join us at Piedmont College in Demorest, Georgia on Friday and Saturday, June 8 & 9, 2018. There is a Healthy Boundaries Training class for Authorized Clergy scheduled on Wednesday, June 6 and Retreats for both Authorized Ministers and for MIDs and PIEs on Thursday, June 7. **THE REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR SECURING ON-CAMPUS HOUSING IS MAY 17, 2018.** After that date you can still register for events as a daytime attendee. [All the details are available on our website.](#)

**REGISTER ONLINE TODAY**

If you have any questions or difficulty with registration please contact Rev. Heather Fosburgh Bardole at 404-719-6572 or [hbardole@secucc.org](mailto:hbardole@secucc.org).



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## From the Conference Minister

Dear Friends,

Have you registered for Annual Meeting? You only have a couple more days, please come and join us! It is important to be together as the Southeast Conference UCC. In the Discernment meetings, I keep hearing how people long for connection with each other and with the wider UCC. Annual Meeting is one avenue in which that can happen. We come together for two days in June on the beautiful campus of Piedmont College in Demorest, GA to pray, learn, fellowship, work, and have fun with one another.



Annual Meeting is one way that our covenant connections are made tangible. We will not be complete if you do not attend, so please come!!!

Blessings,  
Marie

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## We Transform Lives through OCWM Offerings

In a world divided with rife and conflict, we promote health, wholeness, healing and reconciliation. We provide resources that may be used in our

churches, schools and community settings and offer a profound opportunity for others to grow in their faith and put their values into practice. With the help of your OCWM support, we:

- Challenge stereotypes and prejudices
- Recognize God in all religious traditions
- Discover differences and similarities of people in different cultures
- Realize that God's mission requires a constantly evolving worldview



I look forward to seeing you all at Annual Meeting in June 8-9, 2018 at Piedmont College in Demorest, GA. Please stop by and visit our table for more information and resources.

Blessings, as we journey... together,

Carrole Moss  
Generosity Coordinator

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## **Ecclesiastical Council Approves Two Candidates for Ordination**

The Southeast Conference Commission on Ministry held an Ecclesiastical Council on May 1, 2018 at Central Congregational Church in Atlanta for Tiffany Cox and Kriss Choi.

Tiffany is a member at Emmanuel UCC in Greenville, SC where she is starting a full-time campus chaplain position at Furman University. Kriss is a member of Open Community UCC and she is currently a hospital chaplain with Emory Healthcare. [Read more and view photos on our website.](#)



## Prayer List

We are continuing the process of praying for authorized ministers, congregations, and ministry groups throughout 2018. We encourage you to include these prayer requests in your local church newsletter, share them with your prayer circle, and include them in your own prayers. [Click here to download the entire 2018 prayer list.](#)

### Week of May 21

- Circular Congregational UCC; Charleston, South Carolina
- George Bennett
- Matt Frierdich
- James Norris
- J. Richard Woodward
- Kathi Martin

### Week of May 28

- First Congregational Christian UCC; Montgomery Alabama
- Clara Benson
- Diane Tugel
- Stephanie Crumpton
- Patricia Shropshire

## Prayer Requests

- We offer our condolences to our Associate Conference Minister, **Rev. Heather Fosburgh**, on the passing of her grandmother, Carlene Hartshorn, on May 12, 2018.



## Transitions

- **James Bowman Harris** is the new pastor of the United Church of Cookeville in Tennessee. His installation service is Saturday, May 19 at 4:00 pm CST.

## Churches in Transition

First Congregational, Birmingham, AL; Pilgrimage, Marietta, GA; Sandy Creek, Lafayette, AL; Church of the Savior, Alpharetta, GA

## News from our Local Congregations

### Join Church of the Savior (Alpharetta, GA) for a Final “Service of Celebration”

After an extended time of assessment and prayerful consideration, the members of Church of the Savior have decided the church will close and cease to be a worshipping community. They invite you to join them on Sunday, May 20, at 11 am for a special “Service of Celebration” to honor the ministry and life of Church of the Savior. They will worship together and picnic after on the grounds. [Read more on our website.](#)



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### Spring 2018 Nashville Upper Room Fellowship

Featuring Inspirational Musical Videos of the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir & the Mississippi Mass Choir. A Spring potluck supper gathering of Nashville-area United Church of Christ churches & UCC friends to grow in prayer & meditation on God's Word and to grow in fellowship with one another! Join them on Saturday, May 19th at Holy Trinity Community Church.

## News from the Wider Church

## Strengthen the Church Offering is May 20

The Strengthen the Church offering — with a suggested offering date is Pentecost Sunday, May 20, 2018 — supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill on its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

**STRENGTHEN  
THE CHURCH  
OFFERING**

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## “Musicians with a Mission” Raises Thousands for Back Bay Mission

Thanks to widespread support, Back Bay Mission Community Relations Staff, Laura Payne, announced that the May 3, 2018, Musicians with a Mission annual event in Biloxi MS raised over \$11,500.

The proceeds will help Back Bay Mission strengthen neighborhoods, seek justice and transform lives by meeting immediate needs of the marginalized on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and helping people begin their journeys out of poverty.

*Mary Ruth, member of Pleasant Hill Community Church, is on the Back Bay Mission Board of Directors*



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## Urgent Help Needed for Puerto Rico

Work teams needed in response to 2017 hurricanes starting June 1, 2018. Here is how you can help:

- Organize a group of up to 15 volunteers and come ready to work and accompany the people of Puerto Rico (minimum age 16 years old).
- Help clean up and repair homes and church properties.
- Anticipated work sites will be in the municipalities of Toa Baja, Ciales, and Humacao.

To schedule your group, email [uccdisaster.puertorico@gmail.com](mailto:uccdisaster.puertorico@gmail.com)

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## Join the Poor People's Campaign

The Poor Peoples Campaign: A National Call for a Moral Revival is uniting tens of thousands of people across the country to challenge the evils of systemic racism, poverty, the war economy and ecological devastation.

The original 1968 Poor People's Campaign was a multicultural, multi-faith coalition planned by Martin Luther King. It brought thousands of Americans living in poverty to the national mall to demand better living conditions and higher wages.

Organizers of the new Poor People's Campaign say 50 years later, King's

dream remains unfulfilled and those demands largely unmet. So demonstrators are kicking off 40 days of nonviolent direct action.

May 14 was the launch of the campaign's 40 days of action and advocacy in state capitols and in Washington, DC. [Learn more on our website.](#)



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## Contract Review for Church Maintenance and Repair

Did you know that the Insurance Board will review contracts for Local Churches that involve building and lot maintenance (for example, snow removal) and repair (for example, roof repair or replacement)? The IB can make recommendations as to the indemnification provisions in the contract and recommend appropriate levels of insurance that should be carried by the vendors/contractors, as well as make recommendations on limitations on liability. A professional set of eyes on these types of contracts can really make a difference should a loss arise out of the contract. Churches in the IB program should contact Loss Control at 800-437-8830 for information.

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## Enrich Your UCC Identity

Interactive, engaging UCC identity materials are now available for congregations, new member classes, committees and more. Plan a summer program using the videos and discussion guides. [Check out these free resources available from the UCC.](#) As an added bonus, as you watch the



videos watch for a number of folks from the Southeast Conference who have provided content and narration!



## Training and Learning Opportunities

### **Free Webinar: Best Practices for Allowing Offenders in Your Church**

At the heart of every church beats the willingness to forgive and accept. Perhaps the greatest obstacle for a church to overcome is when a convicted sex offender wants to be a member of the church. This is not a decision to take lightly and churches may find it is a divisive decision; struggling with the role of the church and the safety of its congregants.

The Insurance Board recognizes that many of churches face this decision on a regular basis. They believe it is good for a church to be pro-active and have these conversations before that person approaches your doors. Therefore they have invited Heather E. Kimmel, General Counsel of the United Church of Christ, to address issues related to sex offenders in congregations, including safe conduct policies, limited access agreements, and disclosure to congregations.

The online class will be held on Wednesday, May 23 at 2:00 EDT. [Register](#).

## **This Summer, Strengthen Your Pastoral Care Skills**

The Training and Counseling Center at St. Luke's Episcopal Church offers a unique Clinical Pastoral Education for clergy, offering a unique CPE learning program in a rich learning environment that combines clinical, reflective, and integrative experiences. [Learn more on our website.](#)

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## **UCCMA Church Music Workshop in Atlanta, GA**

You're invited to a daylong event for music directors, choir members, instrumentalists, ministers, worship committee members, seminary and college students to improve skills, find inspiration and network with colleagues. It will be held on Saturday, August 25, 2018 from 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM at Virginia-Highland Church. [Learn more on our website.](#)

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## **Women Investing Today – Seeking Justice in Our Financial Lives**

At a time when women are increasingly making their voices heard in arenas across the American spectrum, many clergywomen and women that sit on investment committees are seeking opportunities to use their church endowments to positively impact society. Can your church realize a competitive return and pursue active social engagement? The answer is yes.

The Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization and United Church Funds (UCF) invite you to join them in exploring this timely subject in a webinar. [Learn more on our website.](#)

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## **Going Solar – Connecting Faith, Finance and Facilities**

As part of their monthly Creation Justice Webinars series, the UCC has teamed with GreenFaith to offer a webinar designed to assist churches who are interested in going solar as way to care for God's creation. On May 30th, the Rev. Fletcher Harper will address issues related to technology, finance, physical plant, communications, and more. [Sign-up today](#) for this webinar!

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